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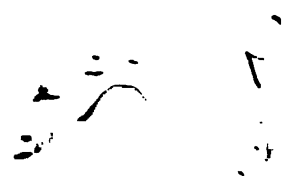
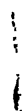
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M N E M O S Y N U M :

INTENDED TO AID, NOT ONLY STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN,
BUT EVERY OTHER CLASS OF CITIZENS,

IN KEEPING

A RECORD OF INCIDENTS, FACTS, &c., IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THEY
MAY BE RECALLED AT PLEASURE :

WITH

7

AN INTRODUCTION,

1726

SHOWING ITS BENEFITS AND ITS MANNER OF BEING KEPT.

BY JOHN F. AMES.

| —

"Condo et comendo quae mox depromere possim."—HORACE.

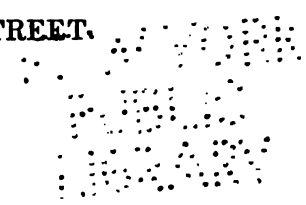
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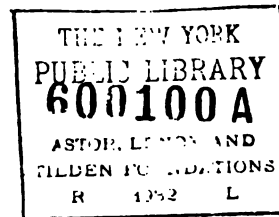
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ORREN HUTCHINSON, 41 GENESEE STREET.

1840.





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INTRODUCTION.

IT may appear surprising that there has not yet been prepared and laid before the public a Common Place Book, free from material objection; yet such I believe to be the fact. The Common Place Book of Dr. Locke—the Index Rerum, by Rev. John Todd, and the Cambridge Theological Common Place Book, are the only ones that have ever been used to any extent. Without wishing to depreciate the labors of those who have gone before me, who I cheerfully acknowledge have done not a little to aid students, professional men and others in placing at their ready command, an invaluable fund of knowledge which would otherwise have been entirely lost; yet I trust I am warranted in saying, that notwithstanding the above plans for keeping a record of instances, facts, etc., have been to a good degree realized, still they are not without objections.

The Cambridge Theological Common Place Book, and that of Dr. Locke, have been completely superseded by Todd's Index Rerum. There are objections, however, against Todd's plan, nearly as great as those against the two former, which experience has discovered, and which I shall briefly notice. Todd's plan requires much more paper than the following, to accomplish the same object. It also necessarily limits a reference simply to the book and page—the Index being extended through the book and the quantity of paper dealt out in such a manner as to require a corresponding reference or quotation. It is frequently desirable, and indeed necessary, to make a full quotation which may frequently occupy one or two pages. This is not allowed on Mr. T.'s plan—for two such quotations would occupy a vowel, and then the Index is no longer of any use, although much blank paper remains, but under other vowels. Those who have experienced this difficulty, have made the vowels immediately following to correspond with those taken up, but subsequently those vowels which have been obliterated, have been wanted, thus originating confusion and rendering the

Index useless. It not unfrequently happens that we read books of which there are but few copies—or they may belong to libraries to which we can seldom if ever have access; and numerous other circumstances may render a mere reference to book and page useless, as we may not be able to obtain the books containing the subject referred to. Frequently, in perusing papers and periodicals, striking passages present themselves, which are worthy of preservation, and not being permitted perhaps to mutilate them—a scrap book in this case is of no service, neither would a reference to page or number of paper, etc., be of any use, as papers and periodicals in many instances are not preserved, if so, difficult to be obtained—hence a quotation in full ought to be made—which privilege Todd's plan necessarily precludes. I find, that a majority of those who have used the Index Rerum, regrettingly labor under this difficulty. The following plan is attended with no such embarrassment. A reference may be confined merely to the book and page, or a full quotation made, as the case may require. It will be perceived, that as one page is intended to be written out in full before another is commenced, no intervening blank paper is wasted—and the quantity of paper which in Todd's Index Rerum is not used, and which never can be used, but which is necessary in order that uncertainties may be provided for, is by the following plan unnecessary, thereby enabling me to furnish a book which will contain more matter than that of the Index Rerum, in a much less space, and consequently at a corresponding price, which is certainly very desirable. I would remark in this place, that those who have used the following book testify, that they can record a subject and note it in the index, with as great facility, and in as little time as those who use the Index Rerum.

The benefits to be derived from keeping a record of thoughts, facts, and striking passages are almost innumerable. Those who keep such a record only know how to appreciate it. It frequently happens that we wish

to recall to our minds some remarks that we have heard, or something that we have read, but our memory too often fails to serve us. It is, or ought to be, at least, the object of every one who reads, or engages in conversation, to treasure up valuable information, and it ought to be so treasured up as to be recalled when wanted. To do this, mere reading or hearing is insufficient. There are too many who consider it time thrown away, to stop while reading to note down what they wish to retain. Experience, however, teaches that this is an error. Nothing can be more beneficial, than taking notes while reading. It serves to fix in our minds what we read. Those who read much but retain little would do well to read less, and endeavor by some means to retain it. they may possibly obviate difficulties that attend the plans of those who have preceded me, I cheerfully submit them, hoping that they may meet with a favorable reception, by those for whose special benefit they have been prepared. They have been submitted to many who have used both the Common Place Book of Dr. Locke, and the Index Rerum of Rev. John Todd, and an opinion has been expressed decidedly in favor of the following plan, accompanied with a desire that it might be widely circulated. If by altering the plans of the Index Rerum and the Common Place Book, and suggesting a few of my own, I have matured a plan better adapted to the wants of community than those already before it, I shall have attained my object.

It is with no little diffidence that I permit the following sheets to appear before the public, but confident that

JOHN F. AMES,

Canton, St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

DIRECTIONS, &c.

A	a 6.
	e 8i. 3r. 2d.
	i 2r.
	o 5c.
	u 9t.

1st. Select that word which conveys the best idea of the subject.

2d. The margin of the book is to contain the word selected, which ought to be written in a round, bold hand, so as to be easily designated. This being done, turn to the Index, where may be found the letters of the alphabet, (capitals,) and opposite each letter are the first five vowels, *a, e, i, o, u*. The page of the book on which record is made, is to be written in that square of the Index answering to the first letter of the word selected—and opposite that vowel which corresponds to the first vowel following the first letter of the word chosen as a guide to the subject—together with the letter which immediately follows such vowel.

I have selected from the Index to be used, the letter **A**, which is inserted above, and will Index a few subjects for the purpose of showing the manner in which the book is to be used.

Supposing I am perusing Schlegel's Lectures, and in his fifth Lecture, Vol. second, page 199, find a picture of *Atheism* of France—which at some subsequent time I think I may want—I select the word *Atheism* as a guide to my subject, and record (say at page eight of this book) as follows:—

“ATHEISM of France, a picture of: Schlegel's Lect. V, vol. 2, p. 199.”

Having done this, I turn to the Index, and having found letter **A**, the first letter in the marginal word (*Atheism*) I note the page on which memorandum is made, opposite the vowel *e*, this being the first vowel in the word, i. e., after the first letter—together with the first letter that follows such vowel, which in this instance is *i*.

AGAIN: Suppose I wish to record some incident connected with the voyage of an *Aeronaut*—and suppose such record is made at page three of this book. Having made the necessary memorandum, I turn to the Index, and after finding letter **A**, the first letter of the word selected, I note the page of the book on which such memorandum is made, opposite the vowel *e*, this being the first vowel following the first letter of the word *Aeronaut*, together with the letter *r*.

AGAIN: Suppose I wish to make a memorandum of some incident or act of *Alfred the Great*, and that such memorandum is made at page two of this book. Having made the necessary note, I turn to the Index, and after finding letter **A**, the first letter of the word selected, I note the page of the book on which memorandum is made, opposite the vowel *e*, this being the first vowel following the first letter of the word *Alfred*—together with the letter *d*.

It is necessary that the above directions be strictly complied with, if they are not, difficulties will arise,

which will many times prevent a speedy reference to subjects.

As some may not discover the necessity of the foregoing directions in every respect, I will give the following

EXPLANATION.

It will be seen, that the three examples already given, are all noted opposite the vowel *e*, letter A.—Now it will appear evident why the first letter following the vowel, is written with the page in the Index—for supposing I wish to refer to *Alfred the Great*—I turn to the Index, and opposite the vowel *e*, letter A, I find page 8*i*—I am satisfied that what I wish to find is not noted at this page, for *i* is not the first letter that follows the vowel *e* in the word *Alfred*. I therefore select the next page, which is 3*r*. I am not yet satisfied, for *r* is not the first letter that follows the vowel *e* in the word *Alfred*. I next select 2*d*. I am now satisfied that page 2*d* contains the subject sought, for *d* is the first letter following the vowel *e*. There may be cases where the subject will not be found by once

referring:—but such cases will be “few and far between.”

In addition to the above explanation, I have selected and inserted below, four additional subjects, which I will *suppose* are noted at the several pages of this book, corresponding to the figures set at the left of each subject respectively—and which will be found entered in the foregoing Index according to the directions. The marginal words are printed in small capitals. In the same manner, all other memoranda of subjects are to be made.

PAGE 6. ARTS and Sciences, distinction of: according to particular substances or relations, which are their immediate object. Abercrombie's Intel. Powers, p. 25.

PAGE 2. AIR vitiated, examples of bad effects of: Dr. Combe's Principles of Physiology, p. 179.

PAGE 5. ASSOCIATION, One common topic may give rise to five trains of thoughts, which are perfectly distinct. Ex. at p. 95, Abercrombie's Intel. Powers.

PAGE 9. ABLUTION, importance of: Dr. Combe's Principles of Physiology.

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